

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 7-21 are pending in this application. Claims 15, 17, and 18 are amended and new Claims 21 is added by the present amendment. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 7 and 18 were objected to; Claims 15 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Reno (U.S. Patent No. 5,556,150); Claims 12, 14, 15 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Honda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,266,318, hereinafter "Honda"). Claims 8, 9, 13, 16, 19 and 20 were allowed.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of Claims 8, 9, 13, 16, 19 and 20.

With regard to the objection to Claims 7 and 18, Claim 18 is amended in a similar manner as suggested on page 2 of the outstanding Office Action. As page 4 indicated that Claims 7 and 18 would be allowable if amended as suggested on page 2, Claims 7 and 18 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

With regard to the rejections of Claims 15 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Reno and Honda, those rejections are respectfully traversed.

Amended Claim 15 recites an information storage medium wherein, "a plurality of ECC blocks are formed on any of neighboring tracks such that the non-data portion is formed after one of the ECC blocks and before a next one of the ECC blocks."

Reno describes an optical disc having regions for recording information 512a and 512b with a non-recorded region 592 therebetween.<sup>1</sup> However, it is respectfully submitted that Reno does not teach that either of regions 512a or 512b include an error correcting code

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<sup>1</sup>See Reno, column 8, lines 20-26 and Figures 5a and 5b.

(ECC) block, much less that “a plurality of ECC blocks are formed on any of neighboring tracks such that the non-data portion is formed after one of the ECC blocks and before a next one of the ECC blocks.” As Reno does not teach each and every element of Claim 15, Claim 15 is not anticipated by Reno and is patentable thereover.

As amended Claim 17 and new Claim 21 recite similar elements to Claim 15, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 17 and 21 also patentably define over Reno.

Honda describes an optical disc having information recording areas written to avoid overlap with information recording areas in adjacent tracks.<sup>2</sup> It is respectfully submitted that Honda does not teach that any of the information recording areas include an error correcting code (ECC) block, much less that “a plurality of ECC blocks are formed on any of neighboring tracks such that the non-data portion is formed after one of the ECC blocks and before a next one of the ECC blocks.” As Honda does not teach each and every element of Claim 15, Claim 15 (and Claim 12 dependent therefrom) is not anticipated by Honda and is patentable thereover.

As amended Claim 17 and new Claim 21 recite similar elements to Claim 15, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 17 and 21 (and Claim 14 dependent therefrom) also patentably define over Honda.

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<sup>2</sup>See Honda, column 10, lines 32-56 and Figure 6.

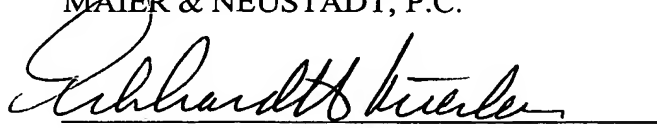
Accordingly, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

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A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Eckhard H. Kuesters', is written over a horizontal line.

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